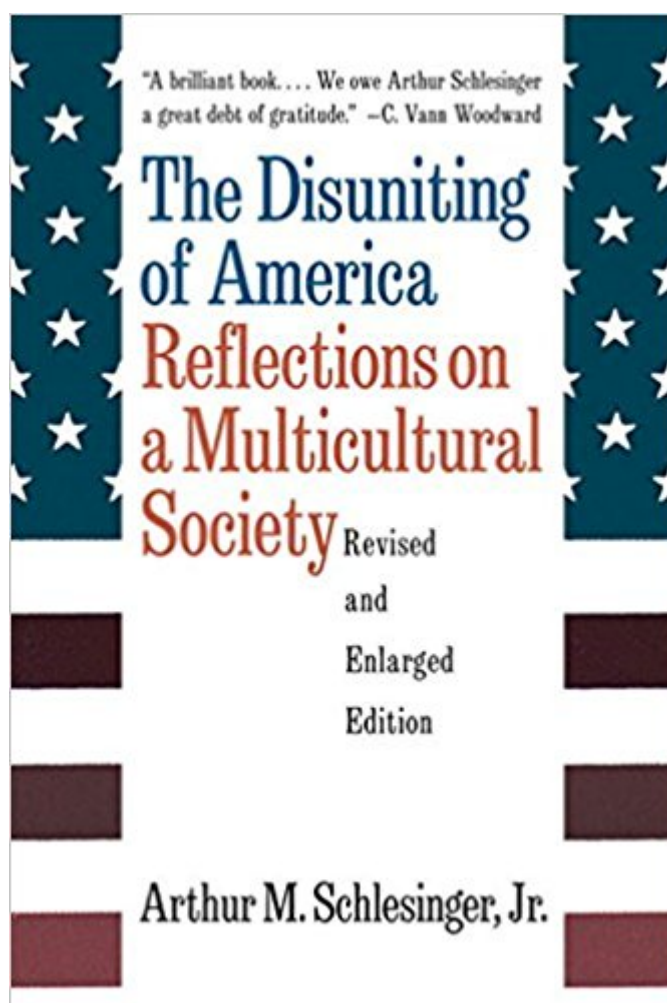


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# The Disuniting Of America: Reflections On A Multicultural Society (Revised And Enlarged Edition)



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestseller that reminded us what it means to be an American is more timely than ever in this updated and enlarged edition, including "Schlesinger's Syllabus," an annotated reading list of core books on the American experience. The classic image of the American nation as a melting pot in which differences of race, wealth, religion, and nationality are submerged in democracy is being replaced by an orthodoxy that celebrates difference and abandons assimilation. While this upsurge in ethnic awareness has had many healthy consequences in a nation shamed by a history of prejudice, the cult of ethnicity, if pressed too far, threatens to fragment American society to a dangerous degree. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner in history and adviser to the Kennedy and other administrations, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., is uniquely positioned to wave the caution flag in the race to a politics of identity. Using a broader canvas in this updated and expanded edition, he examines the international dimension and the lessons of one polyglot country after another tearing itself apart or on the brink of doing so: among them the former Yugoslavia, Nigeria, even Canada. Closer to home, he finds troubling new evidence that multiculturalism gone awry here in the United States threatens to do the same. "One of the most devastating and articulate attacks on multiculturalism yet to appear." *Wall Street Journal* "A brilliant book . . . we owe Arthur Schlesinger a great debt of gratitude." *C. Vann Woodward, New Republic*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this updated version of a modern classic, acclaimed historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. strikes a

blow against radical multiculturalism. The rising cult of ethnicity, he argues, threatens a common American identity, imperiling the civic ideals that traditionally have bonded immigrants into a nation. Various chapters criticize bilingual education, Afrocentrism, and the use of history as group therapy for minorities. Schlesinger raised eyebrows when he first published this book in 1992 because of his impeccable liberal credentials as a one-time assistant to President Kennedy and long-standing academic champion of FDR's New Deal. This new version contains all of the original volume's edge, plus a few extras, including an appendix containing "Schlesinger's Syllabus," 13 books "indispensable to an understanding of America." Titles from this eclectic list include *The Federalist Papers*, Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and Mencken's *American Language*. *The Disuniting of America* remains an essential book for readers interested in the American character as it enters the 21st century. --John J. Miller

In this forcefully argued essay, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Schlesinger contends that America as melting pot has given way to an "eruption of ethnicity ." Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

good job

This book is one of the most compelling reads of non-fiction I have ever come across. Without a doubt, this is one of few books I found of real use in college, and I continue to read and reflect upon it to this day. In fact, I would call this book essential for any social studies curriculum. Arthur Schlesinger takes the issues of a new PC nation and puts them into real perspective. He is both pro-culture and pro-heritage, but he stands against the idea that cultural identity means a separation of the American People. Taking on a myriad of topics, Schlesinger explains with great simplicity, straight-forwardness, and honesty how multi-culturalism can be taken too far, taken to absurd conclusions. Essentially, Schlesinger is letting us know that not everything is best when it is presented through the eyes of multi-culturalism. I read the book in a single sitting. Once I started to read, I was drawn in more and more. Even if you don't agree with his premise, Schlesinger writes in such a way that there is no ambiguity to what he is saying. Knowing Schlesinger's politics for some may make this all the more shocking, but I have to ask those who oppose the message of this book whether they are upset that he is saying these things in general, or if they are upset because a "liberal" is saying these things. In my opinion this book is of critical importance to understand the second half of the 20th century in America.

Received book promptly. Excellent book. Very prophetic.

thx

this is a good book to pass down to family and friends. I didn't pay much for this book I really got my monies worth. Now my 14 old daughter is reading it.

This is a great and easy read. It fully explains what multiculturalism will and more important will not do for a country. It should be required reading for all teachers and students, especially at the high school and college level.

Excellent book by an advisor to John F. Kennedy. This message is critical to America and needs to be re-published.

Required reading...

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